

counselor who takes children into her home to help them escape abuse and hunger. Why doesn't Bush know this?

If I were the education president, I would look at these teachers and the thousands like them who "will not teach." I would look at the neighborhoods around the schools. I would see great poverty and need amidst the plenty and prosperity. If I were the education president, I would wonder why all children do not have clean, warm, well equipped schools.

If I were the education president, I would ask Congress to provide each child with a school as nice as the ones my daughters attended. That would be a start. Then I would ask how we could improve the neighborhoods where these children live.

If I were the education president, I would wonder what I could do to help poor parents get training or better jobs. If I were the education president, I would see that every neighborhood had access to a clinic and that all children had enough to eat. After I did all these things, then I would be certain to hold schools accountable for the children in their charge.

A real education president will use his power to make positive change in the lives of our children. A real education president will not settle for accusations and trite sayings. If I could spend an hour with this education president, I would beg him to spend some time with teachers in the schools he says "will not teach." Then I would ask him to rise above partisanship and make a real difference.

UNBORN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2001

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this misguided bill.

Let me make something perfectly clear from the outset: The loss or harm to a woman and her fetus is absolutely devastating to the woman and her family. Those who injure or kill a pregnant woman and her fetus should be severely punished, and families should have the legal tools to have their loss recognized. We will offer a substitute that does that, and I believe that the Lofgren substitute demonstrates very clearly that there is a lot of common ground on this issue if we would only look for that instead of looking for ways to disagree.

Having said that, let me explain why the approach this bill takes is just another thinly veiled attack on a woman's right to choose.

This bill would give a fetus the same legal recognition as you or I—for the first time in federal law. Instead of addressing the real issues at hand—the horrible pain for a woman who loses a pregnancy to a cowardly, violent act—this bill is an ideological marker for the anti-choice special interests.

Frankly, this bill is just another way of writing a Human Life Amendment. In fact, the National Right to Life Committee admits that it participated in the drafting of the bill, and according to the NRTL website, "[t]he bill challenges that [pro-choice] ideology by recognizing the unborn child as a human victim, distinct from the mother."

If anti-choice members of this House want to recognize the fetus as a person—do that.

Put your money where your mouth is. Bring a Human Life Amendment to the floor and let us vote on it. But don't tell pregnant women in this country that you're trying to protect them with this bill when there are existing state and federal laws to do that and when we are willing to join you in addressing the tragic cases when pregnant women are attacked. The American people are smarter than you're giving them credit for. They know that you're proposing a political statement today, not a real solution.

If you really want to crack down on cowardly criminals who would attack a pregnant woman, support the Lofgren substitute. It gets us to the same ends, without the overtly political means. And if you're serious about protecting women in this country from violence, let's fully fund the Violence Against Women Act today.

VAWA is the most effective way for us to help combat violence against women. Every year, over two million American women are physically abused by their husbands or boyfriends. A woman is physically abused every 15 seconds in this country. And one of every three abused children becomes an adult abuser or victim. The Unborn Victims of Violence Act will do nothing for these women. But VAWA makes all the difference in the world.

My colleagues, please do not be fooled. The Unborn Victims of Violence Act is not about protecting pregnant women from violent acts. Rather, it is yet another anti-choice attempt to undermine a woman's right to choose.

I have stood on the House floor many times and asked my colleagues to work with me to find ways to help women improve their health, plan their pregnancies, and have healthier children. It is tragic that every day over 400 babies are born to mothers who received little or no prenatal care, every minute a baby is born to a teen mother, and three babies die every hour. And it is tragic that 1 of every 3 women will experience domestic violence in her adulthood.

Instead of finding new ways to revisit the divisive abortion battle, Americans want us to focus our efforts on providing women with access to prenatal care, affordable contraception, health education and violence prevention. If we truly want to protect women and their pregnancies from harm, then let us work together to enact legislation to help women have healthy babies and protect them from violent abusers.

Please vote no on H.R. 503.

IN HONOR OF DORIS MERRILL MAGOWAN

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2001

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a prominent and beloved San Franciscan, Doris Merrill Magowan. Mrs. Magowan recently passed away, and she will be missed not only in San Francisco, a City she called home, but across the country.

San Francisco had to share Mrs. Magowan with several other cities, and each benefitted from its association with her. Mrs. Magowan divided her time among California, New York, and Florida and was an active member of her

community in every location. In San Francisco, she served on the Board of Directors of the Fine Arts Museum, the Strybing Arboretum, Children's Hospital, and Grace Cathedral Episcopal Church. A lover of art, gardens, and antiques, she founded the San Francisco Antique Show in 1979. The event has become one of the premier events in the field.

In New York City, she served on the Board of the Greenwich House, the Lenox Hill Neighborhood Association, and the New York Infirmary. In South Hampton, New York, she worked with the Fresh Air Home, St. Andrews Dune Church, and South Hampton Hospital. In Palm Beach, Florida, she served with the Society of the Four Arts and Bethesda-by-the-Sea.

Nationally and internationally, she was involved with the National Tropical Botanical Garden, the World Wildlife Fund, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem.

Family was of great importance to Doris Magowan, and her family members were as impressive as she was. Her father, Charles Edward Merrill, founded the financial services company Merrill Lynch. Her brother, James Ingram Merrill, was a Pulitzer Prize winning poet. Her brother, Charles Edward Merrill, served as the President of Morehouse College in Atlanta. Her husband, Robert Anderson Magowan, was Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of the Safeway grocery store company.

She also leaves five successful sons, Robin, Merrill, Peter, Stephen, and Mark. It has been my privilege to know this exceptional family, including Peter in his capacity as President and Managing General Partner of the San Francisco Giants.

Doris Magowan was an inspiration and a friend to many. Her commitment to her community and her family earned her the respect and admiration of all who knew her. My thoughts and prayers are with her sons, her grandchildren, and her great grandchildren at this sad time.

INTRODUCTION OF INDIAN HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT REAUTHORIZATION

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2001

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today I join 43 Members in introducing legislation to reauthorize and amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCIA)—the keystone federal law that directs the delivery of health services to American Indian and Alaska Native people.

The Indian health care network—comprised of reservation- and traditional homeland-based hospitals, clinics, school health centers and health stations in very remote areas, and urban Indian health programs in major cities—is the primary source of medical care for over 1.3 million American Indians and Alaska Natives. The Indian Health Service administers this comprehensive health care network largely in partnership with Indian tribes themselves who have assumed an increasingly greater role in operating health programs so vital to the well-being of their members.

The IHCIA was first enacted in 1976 to present a more organized and comprehensive

approach to the delivery of medical care to Indian people, most of whom live in isolated, sparsely-populated and under-served areas of our country. Subsequent reauthorization, has amended the Act to reflect advancements in health care delivery, respond to the desire of tribes for greater responsibility of programs, and target the high incidence of certain diseases that have plagued this segment of the American population.

The bill we introduce today is based largely upon recommendations made by the Indian health community—including tribal leaders, tribal health directors, health care experts, Native patients themselves, and the Indian Health Service. Its primary objective is to improve access to quality medical care for this population.

In this bill we maintain the basic framework of the IHCA, including its provisions that target diseases for which Indian Country shows an astonishingly high rate—such as diabetes, tuberculosis, infant mortality, and substance abuse. We have included a greater role for Indian tribes in setting local priorities for health care delivery and provide for innovative options for funding of Indian health facilities. This legislation authorizes a nationally certified Community Health Aide program to supply medical care in under-served, remote areas and strengthens health programs that serve Indian people in urban areas. In addition, this bill will provide for the consolidation of substance abuse, mental health and social service programs into a holistic system for behavioral health services.

We have certainly made improvements in the health status of Indian and Alaska Native people since IHCA was first authorized including; infant mortality which has decreased by nearly 55 percent. Native people, however, still suffer death rates from some diseases at rates many times higher than the national population such as; diabetes at 249 percent higher, tuberculosis at 533 percent higher, and substance abuse at 627 percent higher.

I will push for immediate action on this important legislation in the Resources Committee where I serve as the Ranking Democratic Member and look forward to working with my colleagues and Indian Country as we proceed.

INTRODUCTION OF DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT

HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2001

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to introduce the Department of Environmental Protection Act, important legislation that redesignates the Environmental Protection Agency as an executive department in the executive branch.

Like many of my colleagues, I believe the time has come to elevate EPA to cabinet-level status. This is not a new idea, but it continues to be a good idea. Rep. Jim Florio and I introduced legislation in the 101st Congress (1988) to elevate the agency. I introduced a similar bill again in the 103rd Congress. Several of my colleagues also introduced EPA elevation bills and, in 1993, there was significant debate surrounding Senate-passed and House Com-

mittee-passed bills. The problem wasn't so much the concept behind the bill, but the "baggage" attached to the bill. It became a magnet for controversial provisions and pet projects.

And so, today I'm introducing a baggage-free EPA elevation bill. I believe the bill steers clear of controversial issues that could sidetrack the broader effort. It also combines features from previous legislative efforts, particularly those of the former Chairman and Ranking Member of the Government Operations Committee, Representative JOHN CONYERS and former Representative Bill Clinger.

The Department of Environmental Protection Act should help start the discussion in the 107th Congress. There is at least one bill introduced in the Senate. The subject also came up during Administrator Whitman's confirmation hearings. But there needs to be much more discussion and, most importantly, action.

It may be an "old" idea but it's still a good idea. EPA's mission is too critical for the agency not to be an official part of the cabinet. The idea was good under a Republican President in the late 1980's, a Democratic President in the 1990's, and now a Republican President at the start of the 21st Century.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of the effort.

TRIBUTE TO MS. JENNIFER LUCIANO

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2001

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Jennifer Luciano. Ms. Luciano has spent the last five months doing an internship in my Congressional office. As she prepares to leave Capitol Hill tomorrow and return to Loyola University to complete her education I wish her well.

On behalf of the constituents of the Seventh Congressional District I want to commend and congratulate Jennifer for doing an outstanding job. During her internship Jennifer responded to constituent mail, drafted ideas for legislation, prepared "Dear Colleagues" and assisted the legislative staff.

In particular, Jennifer thought of the idea for a Minority Women's Statue to be displayed in the Rotunda of the United States Capitol. Currently, there are no depictions or Statues that represent the accomplishments of Minority Women to the history of America. In addition, she thought of a bill to expand Medicare coverage to cover eyeglasses and hearing aids for the Medicare eligible population. These are just two of the outstanding ideas that Jennifer worked on.

I am certain that Jennifer will do well in her future endeavors if she continues to work as hard as she has worked on behalf of the people of the Seventh Congressional District and the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Jennifer Luciano as she prepares to go back to Chicago, Illinois.

ANNIVERSARY OF AQUI EN EL VALLE

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2001

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Aqui en el Valle newspaper, headquartered in Bloomfield, New Mexico, and its founder, LaVerta Valdez-Johnson, on its recent one-year anniversary. In that short period, this newspaper has delivered dedicated service and commitment to the Hispanic community in the Four Corners area.

Aqui en el Valle, or "Here in the Valley," is typically focused on positive local news and information that benefits the Hispanic community. The paper also focuses on Southwestern history and profiles of successful Hispanics. The newspaper is even used in Bloomfield elementary and high schools for Spanish language classes.

The Aqui en el Valle, however, would never have become a reality without the persistence and vision of LaVerta Valdez-Johnson. She was told by the business community that a Hispanic newspaper was not a sound investment. Undeterred, Mrs. Valdez-Johnson, with the help of her husband, Wesley and son, Russ, the monthly paper has gone from 1,000 copies in March, 2000, to a circulation today of more than 5,000. It has established a strong and diverse base of support and serves a vast area of 11 New Mexico towns that stretch from Bloomfield to Santa Fe.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending LaVerta Valdez-Johnson for not backing down from her dream and to extend best wishes for continued success in the coming years.

THE MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE PROFICIENCY PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 2001

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2001

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing a bill to authorize the Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF) to establish a demonstration program under which the Director awards grants to qualified schools.

The grants received by these schools will be used to develop a program that builds or expands mathematics, science, and information technology curricula; purchase equipment necessary to establish such a program and provide teacher training in such fields. The act also allows the private sector to contribute goods and services, such as the donation of computer hardware and software; the establishment of internship and mentoring opportunities for students who participate in the mathematics, science, and information technology program; and the donation of scholarship funds for use at institutions of higher education by eligible students.

The need for this legislative proposal to provide grants to qualified schools is beyond doubt, and the case supporting this bill can be simply stated: